



GP Assistantship Independent Practice Information Pack Year 6 General Practice Course 2024-25

Dear Colleague,

We are continuing our scheme in which we allow our Year 6 students to choose and arrange their own placements for their final year GP Assistantship (GPA). In this context 'Independent' means a practice that is not currently involved in community-based teaching of UCL Medical School students anywhere in the curriculum.

The placement is designed to be a 4 week out-of-London GP experience. Students may choose to stay away from home in private rental accommodation at their own cost, they may choose a practice if they have a friend or family in the area, or they may choose to commute from home.

Please look at the documents enclosed in this pack. There is an Information Sheet, which gives a summary of the replies to 'frequently asked questions'. The full GPA Tutor Guide with further information can be provided upon request.

If you are able to take this student for their allocated 4-week rotation, we would be very grateful if you could complete our online Independent Practice placement survey which asks you about your practice on:

https://qualtrics.ucl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_6hzwApbQo4y607Q

The survey should be submitted by **2nd May 2024**.

If there are any outstanding issues that you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you can take this student, you will be contacted by email to confirm the placement once you have completed the independent placement practice questionnaire.

Enclosed:

- Course information sheet
- Criteria for Independent placements
- Reimbursement costs (as of 2024-25)
- Sample GPA timetable
- Contact details for course

Dr William Coppola
Senior Course Lead

Dr Devina Maru
Course Lead

COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

GPA Year 6 General Practice Course

2024-25

Student's prior experience

All students will have done;

- A 6-week course in Primary Care in Year 5 mainly based in a London practice.
- They will have had clinical teaching in General Practice during their general medicine, care of the elderly, child health, psychiatry, dermatology, and women's health courses.

Aims

- To complement students' earlier experience & build on their knowledge of General Practice and primary care
- To provide an intense clinical experience appropriate to the final year focusing on reaching clinical decisions and developing shared management plans with patients
- To ensure relevant aspects of preparation for practice as a graduate are mastered.

Structure

- 5 x 4-week rotations per year (from September to January)

Tasks and learning activities

- A mixture of weekly student mini-surgeries, observed consultations, parallel student/GP tutor surgeries
- Plan a Quality improvement project & presentation to practice
- A reflective task (significant event analysis)
- Preparation for practice tasks (prescriptions, consultation skills, writing referral letters, etc)

The role of the GPA Tutor

- Timetable organisation, which can be flexible depending on the needs of the practice and the student.
- Assessment of learning needs at the beginning, middle and end of the rotation
- To provide constructive feedback and ongoing support throughout the rotation
- Ensuring ample contact with patients - including supervised student mini-surgeries
- To provide sustained 1:1 contact with an experienced clinician and to act as a role model.
- To ensure plenty of specific feedback tailored to the student needs.

91 % of students in 2022-23 rated this course good or excellent.

Requirements to become a GPA Independent Practice

For these purposes, “independent” means a practice not regularly teaching UCL medical students. Your practice must be out of London, but within the UK.

You will not be able to be an independent practice if you currently teach UCLMS students in Years 1-5 or are currently a Year 6 tutor.

If you are an existing teaching practice for UCLMS then you may be eligible to take student for the GPA but as a UCL linked practice – please email us to enquire about this.

Our requirements are:

- You are willing and able to take the student for their allocated dates. Rotation dates for 2024-25 are:

Rotation 1: Monday 26th August* - Friday 20 th September 2024.	Rotation 2: Monday 23 rd September – Friday 18 th October 2024
Rotation 3: Monday 21 st October – Friday 15 th November 2024	Rotation 4: Monday 18 th November – Friday 13 th December 2024
Rotation 5: Monday 16 th December – Friday 24 th January 2025	

*Monday 26th August is a bank holiday and therefore Tuesday 27th August will be the online introduction day and students will start at the practice Wednesday 28th August.

- You can meet the requirements of the course including the time commitment, tutorials, mini-surgeries, and assessment of student needs.
- You have an available consulting room for the student, for most of the placement.
- You have good contact with community resources and are able to organise suitable community learning experiences for the student.

We would prefer practices that:

- Are accredited postgraduate training practices **or** have had recent experience teaching senior undergraduate students.
- have a GP Tutor for the student who has MRCPGP

Reimbursement

There is a current **£2,210** fee payable to practices, which covers the **34** sessions in practice and mini surgeries. The fee is paid at the end of the attachment.

Students are expected to arrange and cover the cost of their own accommodation during this placement.

Sample GPA Timetable

All students appreciate a timetable. Below is one possible suggested timetable - but please adapt to fit the practice and the student. Note: Students attend a compulsory briefing and simulated consultation session on the first day of each rotation which is currently conducted online.

Time In Practice =

	Type of session	No of sessions per week	Types of activity
	Clinical	7	Student/doctor/nurse consultations Active observation with agreed focus Practise practical skills Minor illness/chronic disease clinic Patient follow-up at home/in hospital Interviewing/examining pre-selected patients interesting histories/signs
	Self-directed learning	2	Complete learning portfolio tasks Tutorials
	Free session	1	Timing needs to be negotiated, e.g. occasionally students play sports on Wednesday afternoons

Sample GPA Timetable

WEEK 1	MON (Practice)	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
AM	UCL Introduction Monday (remote teaching)	Travel Induction Student needs			
PM	UCL Consultation Clinical reasoning Explaining (remote teaching)		Free session		

WEEK 2	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
AM					
PM			Free session		Midpoint meeting Patient questionnaire

WEEK 3	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
AM					
PM			Free session		

WEEK 4	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI (RFH)

AM					
PM			Free session		GP Report & Grade Form

Contact Details for the Course

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